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AMERSHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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**REPORT**  
of the  
**MEDICAL OFFICER**  
**OF HEALTH**  
and the  
**CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH**  
**INSPECTOR**  
for the year 1959





AMERSHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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CHAIRMAN: Major G. Boyce, M.B.E., M.C., J.P.

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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

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Chairman: F.H. Hancock

Vice-Chairman: E.A. Alliot

Councillors: Mrs. E. Bell  
Mrs. W. Corkish  
Mrs. L.M. Gibb  
W. A. Cummins  
O. E. Hansen  
H.R. Hoare  
F.W.E. King, M.B.E.  
J. Milliner.  
S.E.A. Tunks  
W.D. Young

Public Health Officers

Medical Officer of Health: F. Seymour, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

The Medical Officer of Health is also Medical Officer of Health for Chesham Urban District Council, Beaconsfield Urban District Council, Deputy Divisional School Medical Officer and Assistant County Medical Officer.

Chief Public Health Inspector: Mr. F.G. Caudery, F.A.P.H.I.,  
M.R.S.H.,  
(Certified Meat and Food Inspector).

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector: Mr. W.E. Jones, M.A.P.H.I.,  
(Certified Meat and Food Inspector).

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

Mr. R. Powell, M.A.P.H.I.  
(Certified Meat and Food Inspector).

Mr. H.H. Cometsen, M.A.P.H.I.  
(Certified Meat and Food Inspector).

Mr. R. Charnick, M.A.P.H.I.  
(Certified Meat and Food Inspector).  
(Appointed 1st November, 1959).

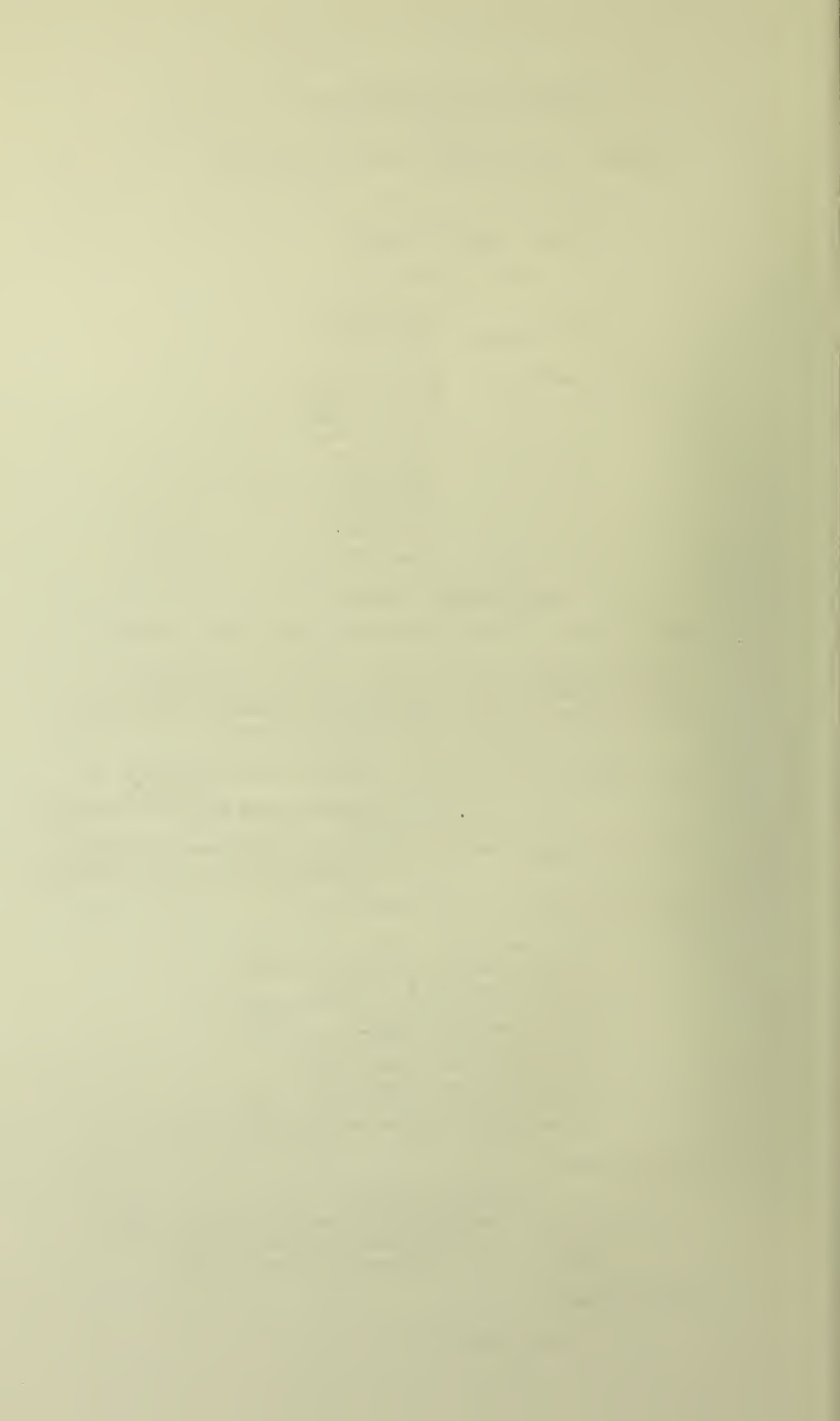
Mr. J.A. Clifford, M.A.P.H.I.  
(Certified Meat and Food Inspector)  
(Transferred to Surveyors Department 15-4-1959).

Clerical Staff:

Mr. T. Ball (Chief Clerk)  
Mrs. P.D. Birkhead (Appointed 7th September, 1959)  
Miss M. Deane (Appointed 27th July, 1959)  
Miss W.F. Allen (Resigned 6th August, 1959)

Rodent Officer:

Mr. H.A. Snapes.



Public Health Department,  
Council Offices,  
High Street,  
Amersham, Bucks.

June, 1960.

Tel. Amersham 565.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Amersham Rural District Council.

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the environmental health and sanitary circumstances of the Council's district for the year 1959.

It is a great pleasure to record the co-operation and help given by the Chief Public Health Inspector and other members of the Public Health Department.

The year has also been one of most useful co-operation between this Department and all other branches of the Health and Welfare Services.

Comments are given in each section to highlight those matters considered to be of importance.

I have the honour to be,  
Your obedient servant,

F. SEYMOUR.

Medical Officer of Health.

## ARRANGEMENT OF THE REPORT

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### Section II     GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

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### Section IV    PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

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### Section V     SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

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### Section VI    INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

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### Section VII   FACTORIES ACT AND MISCELLANEOUS

APPENDICES I and II

SECTION I.GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS1. GENERAL STATISTICS

Population..... 51,490  
 Area (Acres) of District..... 46,233  
 Number of Habitable Houses (per rate book) 16,102  
 Rateable value of Area..... £789,892  
 Net product of a Penny Rate 1959/60 (Estd) £3210

2. VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	417	442	859
Illegitimate	<u>17</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>34</u>
	434	459	893
	-----	-----	-----

x Crude birth rate per 1,000 population..... 17.3  
 Corrected birth rate per 1,000 population ..... 17.0  
 (Comparability factor 0.98)

Illegitimate live births per cent of total  
 live births..... 3.8

Stillbirths..... 18

Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births.. 19.7

Total live and still births..... 911

Infant deaths (deaths under 1 year)..... 23

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births..... 25.8

" " " " " leg. live births.. 22.1

" " " " " "illeg. live births.. 117.6  
 (Too much significance should not be  
 attached to the Infant mortality rate  
 per 1,000 illegitimate live births  
 because of the small numbers involved).

Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks  
 per 1,000 total live births) ..... 16.8

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under  
 1 week) per 1,000 total live births ..... 15.7

Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths  
 under 1 week combined) per 1,000 total live and  
 still births ..... 35.1

Maternal deaths (including abortion)..... Nil

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and  
 still births..... Nil

<u>Causes of Death</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Tuberculosis (respiratory)	1	-	1
2. Tuberculosis (other)	1	-	1
3. Meningococcal infection	1	-	1
4. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	1	2
5. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	6	10
6. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	15	2	17
7. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	7	7
8. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2	2
9. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	22	33	55
10. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	5	2	7
11. Diabetes	4	-	4
12. Vascular lesions of nervous system	22	49	71
13. Coronary disease, angina	42	32	74
14. Hypertension with heart disease	2	3	5
15. Other heart disease	15	34	49
16. Other circulatory disease	9	14	23
17. Influenza	-	5	5
18. Pneumonia	22	25	47
19. Bronchitis	11	3	14
20. Other diseases of respiratory system	5	2	7
21. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	3	4
22. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	-	2
23. Nephritis and nephrosis	-	3	3
24. Hyperplasia of prostate	4	-	4
25. Congenital malformations	2	6	8
26. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	18	26	44
27. Motor vehicle accidents	4	2	6
28. All other accidents	11	13	24
29. Suicide	2	2	4
	226	275	501

Crude death rate per 1,000 population.....9.7  
 x Corrected death rate per 1,000 population .....9.8  
 (Comparability factor 1.01)

x The corrected Birth and Death rates are those which are obtained when the crude local rates are adjusted to make allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales.

Particulars of Accidents (other than motor vehicle accidents) resulting in death.

Whilst the number of persons dying from motor vehicle accidents fell there was a large increase compared with last year in the number of persons dying from other accidents:-

<u>No. Died</u>	<u>Type of Accident</u>	<u>Ages</u>
14	Fall	90, 82, 60, 83, 92, 79, 83, 92, 90, 81, 47, 91, 88, 87.
2	Burns	90, 71.
2	Coal gas poisoning (domestic gas cooker)	64, 58.
1	Scalded (whilst taking bath)	84.
2	Barbiturate poisoning	35, 83.
1	Fall from ladder	65.
1	Accidental drowning	81.

District	Popu- lation Census 1951.	Reg. Gen. estimated Population Mid-1959.	Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Population.	Tuberculosis DeathRate per 1,000 Population.	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births.	Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births.	Maternal Mortality per 1,000 Live and Still-births.
<b>URBAN:</b>								
Aylesbury	21,050	23,580	17.4 (410)	9.1 (215)	0.08 (2)	29.3 (12)	26.8 (11)	- (-)
Beaconsfield	7,913	9,540	14.3 (136)	10.1 (96)	0.10 (1)	7.4 (1)	- (-)	- (-)
Bletchley	10,919	15,440	20.8 (321)	7.2 (111)	- (-)	24.9 (8)	15.6 (5)	- (-)
Buckingham	3,942	4,150	14.2 (59)	10.1 (42)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Chesham	11,433	13,790	22.0 (303)	10.0 (138)	0.07 (1)	16.5 (5)	9.9 (3)	- (-)
Eton	3,247	5,090	14.7 (75)	7.3 (37)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
High Wycombe	40,702	45,350	18.1 (820)	9.3 (420)	0.13 (6)	12.2 (10)	8.5 (7)	- (-)
Linslade	3,270	3,760	17.8 (67)	9.6 (36)	- (-)	14.9 (1)	14.9 (1)	14.9 (1)
Marlow	6,481	7,700	20.4 (157)	9.5 (73)	- (-)	19.1 (3)	19.1 (3)	- (-)
Newport Pagnell	4,377	4,500	14.9 (67)	21.6 (97)	0.22 (1)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Slough	66,471	75,450	17.3 (1,306)	9.1 (689)	0.12 (9)	17.6 (23)	10.7 (14)	- (-)
Wolverton	13,426	13,250	14.7 (195)	13.1 (173)	- (-)	20.5 (4)	15.4 (3)	- (-)
Total Urban	153,231	221,600	17.7 (3,916)	9.6 (2,127)	0.09 (20)	17.1 (67)	12.0 (47)	0.25(1)
<b>RURAL:</b>								
Amersham	41,437	51,490	17.3 (893)	9.7 (501)	0.04 (2)	25.8 (23)	16.8 (15)	- (-)
Aylesbury	29,545	32,460	17.2 (557)	10.3 (333)	0.06 (2)	21.5 (12)	16.2 (9)	- (-)
Buckingham	9,422	9,660	15.1 (146)	10.9 (105)	- (-)	6.8 (1)	6.8 (1)	- (-)
Eton	43,143	60,920	19.5 (1,189)	8.1 (491)	0.08 (5)	24.4 (29)	19.3 (23)	- (-)
Newport Pagnell	13,823	14,730	15.3 (225)	14.4 (212)	0.14 (2)	8.9 (2)	4.4 (1)	- (-)
Wing	9,047	8,950	15.8 (141)	9.8 (88)	- (-)	14.2 (2)	14.2 (2)	- (-)
Winslow	7,268	7,820	12.7 (99)	14.2 (111)	- (-)	10.1 (1)	10.1 (1)	- (-)
Wycombe	39,375	47,870	17.4 (832)	9.0 (429)	0.04 (2)	12.0 (10)	10.8 (9)	1.18 (1)
Total Rural	193,060	233,900	17.5 (4,082)	9.7 (2,270)	0.06 (13)	19.6 (80)	14.9 (61)	0.24 (1)
TOTAL COUNTY	386,291	455,500	17.6 (7,998)	9.7 (4,397)	0.07 (33)	18.4 (147)	13.5 (108)	0.25 (2)
ENGLAND AND WALES			16.5	11.6	0.09	22.0	15.8	0.38

NOTE: In view of the small numbers on which some of the rates quoted are based, the actual numbers are given in parenthesis for the purpose of clearer comparison.

SECTION II.GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.Hospital Services:

The Amersham Rural District is situated in the area of the High Wycombe and District Management Committee of the Oxford Regional Hospital Board.

Hospitals Available for the District:

Tuberculosis	-	Berks & Bucks Joint Sanatorium, Peppard Common.
General	-	Chesham Cottage Hospital.
"	-	Amersham General Hospital.
"	-	Royal Bucks County Hospital, Aylesbury.
"	-	War Memorial Hospital, High Wycombe.
"	-	Chalfont & Gerrards Cross Hospital.
Infectious Diseases	-	Aylesbury Isolation Hospital.

Laboratory Facilities:

Bacteriological laboratory facilities are provided by the Public Health Laboratories situated at Oxford and Luton.

Samples of water and sewage effluent for chemical analysis are sent to the Public Analyst, Southwark Borough Council.

Ambulance Services:

These services are administered by the County Council. The Amersham R.D.C. area is covered by the High Wycombe station.

Family Planning Association.

During the year, the Amersham, Chesham and District Branch of the Family Planning Association was formed. A clinic is now held in the Ante-natal Department at Amersham Hospital every Thursday at 6-30 p.m.

MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING SERVICENATURE OF THE ARRANGEMENTS IN THE AREA

Districts Served	Name, Address and Qualifications of Nurses	Telephone
Amersham ) Amersham Common ) Chesham Bois ) Coleshill ) Winchmore Hill ) Little Chalfont )	Miss P. Harper, S.E.A.N., S.C.M., and Miss M. Inglis, S.R.N., S.C.M., 7, First Avenue, Amersham.	Amersham 374
Chalfont St. Giles ) Seer Green ) Jordans ) Three Households )	Miss M.C. Bott, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., Holme Lacey, London Road, Chalfont St. Giles.	Chal.St.Giles 413
Chalfont St. Peter ) Gold Hill ) "Kingsway", G.X. ) Chorley Wood ) (Bucks Area) )	Miss M.E. Wright, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N. and Miss M.F. Vincent, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., Nos. 1 and 3, Pennington Road, The Glebe, Chalfont St. Peter.	Gerr. X 4030/1
Lee Common ) The Lee ) Chartridge ) Ballinger ) Swan Bottom ) Potter Row ) Pednor Vale )	Mrs. B.L. Fowler, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., 17a, Berkeley Avenue, Chesham.	Chesham 591
Ashley Green ) Whelpley Hill ) Ley Hill ) Lye Green ) Latimer & Chenies )	x Miss M. Bly, S.R.N., S.C.M., Shenley Cottage, Ley Hill, Chesham.	Chesham 8238
Holmer Green ) Penn Street ) Penn ) Forty Green ) Knotty Green ) Tylers Green )	Miss I.M. Cobb, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., 8, Rose Avenue, Hazlemere, High Wycombe.	Penn 3327
Little Hampden ) Little Kingshill ) Hyde Heath ) Little Missenden ) Great Missenden )	x Miss J.D. MacDonald, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., Nurse's Cottage Rignall Road, Great Missenden.	Gt. Miss. 2071
Hawridge ) Bellingdon ) Asheridge ) Buckland Common ) St. Leonards ) Cholesbury ) The Vale, Chesham )	x Miss J.E. Fordham, S.R.N., S.C.M., Nurse's Bungalow, Sandpit Hill, Buckland Common, Nr. Tring, Herts.	Choles. 269
Prestwood ) Gt. Kingshill ) Spurlands End ) Heath End )	x Miss H.M.E. Coulson, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., Chestnut Cottage, Sixty Acres, Prestwood, Gt. Miss.	Gt. Miss. 2209

x These Nurses hold the Health Visitors Certificate of the  
Royal Society of Health.

CHILD WELFARE CENTRES

<u>Centre</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Sessions</u>	<u>Medical Officer attends</u>
Amersham Old Town.	British Legion Hall, Whielden Street.	2nd & 4th Tuesday	2nd Tuesd
Amersham New Town.	Community Centre, Woodside Road, Amersham- on-the-Hill.	1st & 3rd Tuesday	Each Sess
Chalfont St. Giles.	Memorial Hall.	2nd & 4th Thursday	2nd Thurs
Chalfont St. Peter.	Tithe Barn, Swan Farm.	Each Fri.	1st & 3rd Friday
Chartridge.	Village Hall, Chartridge.	3rd Thurs.	Each Sess
The Lee.	Youth Club Hall, Lee Common.	1st Thurs.	"
Chenies.	Florence Brown Memorial Hall, Hillside Road, Chorley Wood.	2nd & 4th Tuesday	4th Tues
Cholesbury-cum- St. Leonards.	Village Hall, Cholesbury.	2nd & 4th Thurs.	4th Thurs
Coleshill.	Village Hall.	Closed November.	
Great Kingshill.	Village Hall.	3rd Weds.	3rd Weds.
Great Missenden.	Memorial Hall, Station Approach.	2nd & 4th Weds.	4th Weds.
Holmer Green.	Village Centre.	1st & 3rd Weds.	1st Weds.
Little Chalfont.	Little Chalfont Hall.	1st & 3rd Monday	Each Sess
Prestwood.	Village Hall.	2nd Weds.	2nd Weds.
Seer Green & Jordans.	Baptist Schoolroom, Seer Green.	1st & 3rd Thurs.	3rd Thurs
Tylers Green & Penn.	Parish Room, Tylers Green.	Last Weds. in month.	Last Weds
Beaconsfield.	The Old Rectory.	1st & 3rd Friday 2 p.m. each month.	Each Sess
Holtspur.	Congregational Hall.	1st & 3rd Tuesday 2 p.m. each month.	3rd Tuesd each mont
Chesham.	School Clinic, Germain Street.	1st, 2nd 3rd & 4th Friday.	2nd and 4 Friday.
Chesham Pond Park.	Community Hall, Windsor Road.	2nd & 4th Monday.	2nd Monda

SECTION III.NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 - 1951Sections 47 and 50.

It has not proved necessary to take any action under these sections during the year.

SECTION IV.PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year are given below, together with comparative figures for 1958:-

	Cases Notified	
	1959	1958
Measles	589	598
Whooping Cough	3	22
Scarlet Fever	46	41
Pneumonia	22	18
Polionyelitis -		
(a) Paralytic	-	1
(b) Non-Paralytic	-	-
Euerperal Pyrexia	6	20
Erysipelas	1	3
Dysentery	0	1
Food Poisoning	0	1
Tuberculosis		
Pulmonary	17	15
Non-Pulmonary	1	2

Acute Polionyelitis.

No cases of polionyelitis were notified during the year. At the time of writing the group eligible for vaccination has been extended to include those aged from six months up to 40 years.

Polionyelitis is not as common in the 25-40 age group but when the disease does occur it is a more serious one. Although no accurate figures for the district are available, the response of the older age -groups has been disappointing.

The great majority of parents in this age group will have ensured that their children are protected. I hope their aim will now be "protection for the whole family".

Diphtheria:

It is gratifying to note that 1959 was the 13th consecutive year during which the district has been free from Diphtheria. In 1959 56% of children aged 0-1 years and 71% of those aged 1-2 years had been immunised against this disease.

The re-appearance of diphtheria in a neighbouring area, even though on a limited scale, emphasises the continued need for immunisation against diphtheria during infancy, and the importance of giving a booster dose at the age of 5 years.

Whooping Cough:

3 cases were notified during the year.

Of the children in the district approximately 59% had been immunised by the time they reached the age of 12 months.

Tuberculosis:

The following table shows the new cases of tuberculosis and the deaths from the disease, arranged in age groups:-

Age Periods Years	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	1	1	1	-	-	-	1	-
45	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & over	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
Total	9	7	1	-	1	-	1	-

B.C.G. VACCINATION AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS:

B.C.G. vaccination is provided for children aged 13 years by the School Health Department.

SUMMARY

(In the Amersham & Chesham Division)

Total No. Tuberculin Tested.....548  
 Percentage Positive Reactors.....9.7%  
 Percentage Non-Reactors.....90.3%

A positive reaction indicates that the child has already been infected with tuberculosis and has thereby acquired a degree of protection from further infection with the disease. Children showing a strongly positive reaction are further investigated by the County Chest Physician. Non-reactors are vaccinated at the time the preliminary tests are read.

MASS MINIATURE RADIOGRAPHY SURVEY (Amersham & Chesham).

The results of the 1958 Mass Miniature Radiography Survey were very similar to those of the 1956 survey, details of which I gave in my report last year.

	1958	1956
1. No. examined.	8929	9383
2. % of eligible persons x-rayed.	20%	20%
3. % of General Public x-rayed (i.e. not in organised groups).	12%	14%
4. % of persons examined found to have significant chest lesions.	0.5	0.6
5. % of persons examined found to have active Tuberculosis.	0.03	0.06

During 1959 the Oxford Regional Hospital Board provided a mobile unit which regularly visited sites in the area to provide a chest X-ray service for General Practitioner referrals.

It will be most interesting to study the results of this experiment.

#### HEALTH EDUCATION:

The Council has received reports on:-

- (1) Mass Radiography Survey 1956.
- (2) Safety devices for gas appliances available for use by handicapped persons.
- (3) Dangers associated with Plastic Bags.
- (4) Fluoridation and the control of Dental caries.
- (5) The Relationship between Lung Cancer and Smoking.

Through the help of the local press these matters have been brought to the Public notice. On at least one occasion mention was made of one of the above items on the South East Regional B.B.C. News.

In addition a great deal of Health Education at its most effective level i.e. personal conversation, is carried out during the routine work and visits of the Public Health Department Staff.

SECTION V.SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

The Public Health Inspectors continued to maintain their day-to-day inspections, including the regular visits to the two bacon factories, in order to ensure a 100% inspection of the pig carcasses. A glance at the summary of visits below shows over 1,000 inspections made in connection with improvement grants. This high figure is, to some extent, explained by the fact that an annual inspection is made of all dwellings in connection with which a grant has been made available in order to check that the conditions are being observed.

The following is a summary of the Public Health Inspectors' visits during the year:-

NATURE OF VISIT OR INSPECTIONGENERAL SANITATION

Water Supply .....	35
Drainage .....	431
Stables and Piggeries .....	37
Verminous Premises .....	16
Tents, Vans and Sheds .....	263
Pet Animals Act .....	14
Factories and Workshops .....	85
Outworkers .....	8
Bakehouses .....	18
Hairdressers and Barbers .....	4
Public Conveniences .....	6
Refuse Collection and Disposal .....	93
Rats and Mice .....	10
Atmospheric Pollution .....	41
Schools.....	2
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits .....	366
	<hr/>
	1,429

HOUSING

Public Health Act: No. of houses inspected	142
Public Health Act: No. of visits paid ....	180
Housing Act: No. of houses inspected .....	123
Housing Act: No. of visits paid .....	70
Overcrowding: No. of houses inspected ....	2
Overcrowding: No. of visits paid .....	2
Improvement Grants: Inspections .....	1,031
Section 16: No. of houses inspected .....	11
Section 16: No. of visits paid .....	26
Housing Applications: No. of visits paid..	169
Certificates of Disrepair .....	27
Miscellaneous .....	137
	<hr/>
	1,920

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Enquiries in cases of Infectious Diseases	75
Visits re. Disinfection .....	2
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease Visits..	20
	<hr/>

97

Carried forward

3,446

Brought forward

3,446

MEAT INSPECTION

Visits to Slaughterhouses ... ..	673
Shops and Stalls ... ..	5
Other Premises ... ..	<u>39</u>
	717

VISITS TO FOOD PREMISES

Butchers ... ..	41
Dairies and Milk Distributors ...	71
Fishmongers and Poulterers ... ..	36
Food Preparing Premises ... ..	38
Grocers ... ..	110
Greengrocers and Fruiterers ..	25
Ice-cream premises ... ..	20
Restaurants and Canteens ... ..	60
Street Vendors and Hawkers' Carts ..	1
Licensed Premises ... ..	34
Bakeries ... ..	<u>5</u>
	441

VISITS IN CONNECTION WITH SAMPLING

Milk Sampling ... ..	247
Egg Albumen Sampling ..	5
Ice-cream Sampling ... ..	110
Water Sampling ... ..	304
Faeces ... ..	13
Utensil Swabs (sets) ... ..	26
Miscellaneous Food Visits ... ..	<u>40</u>
	745

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 5,349
 

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Informal Notices:

Served: 50

Complied with: 29

Statutory Notices:

Served: 1

Complied with: 4

One of the Statutory Notices complied with necessitated rather drastic action. It concerned a house in connection with which the Water Undertakers found it necessary to disconnect the supply of water owing to wastage. Intimation of this action was given to the Department. A Notice was served on the owner to provide the premises with an adequate supply of wholesome water. This notice was not complied with. Before invoking the powers of entry, every possible effort was made to contact the owner/occupier - an elderly widow. These efforts failed and it became necessary to obtain a warrant from the Magistrates' Court to enter the premises, if necessary by force. Notice of this was also given to the owner/occupier. Still no steps were taken to comply with the notice and in October an entry was made by force and the water supply was reinstated.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company is the statutory undertaking which supplies water to the whole of the Council's district, with the exception of the parish of Cholesbury-cum-St. Leonards, and a portion of the parish of The Lee, which are served by the Bucks. Water Board.

76 samples of the mains water were taken from various parts of the district and submitted for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis. All the reports were satisfactory.

During the year, the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company carried out further extensions to their mains, as follows:-  
944 yds of 2 inch, 302 yds of 3 inch, 4,993 yds of 4 inch, 1,744 yds of 6 inch, 200 yds of 9 inch and 1,146 yds of 12 inch.

Also 132 yards of 2" asbestos main was laid during the year by the Bucks. Water Board.

228 samples of water other than from the mains were submitted for bacteriological examination as follows:-

Source of Supply

Rainwater:

5

Bore:

223

Of the 228 samples, 23 were found to be unsatisfactory as under:

Rainwater:

2

Bore:

21

The 21 unsatisfactory samples from boreholes were obtained from one of the bacon factories and the majority of these samples were taken at a point before the water is chlorinated, also in a number of cases the degree of pollution was very slight. A few of the samples taken after chlorination were not entirely satisfactory and the owners of the bacon factory have been requested to instal a new chlorinating plant.

Despite the exceptionally dry summer, the two water undertakings maintained a satisfactory supply and pressure of water throughout the district, with the exception of one high point where three houses were affected by a lack of pressure. A very small number of requests were received for a supply of water to be delivered by mobile tanks where no main is available, and such requests were referred to the County Fire Service. The County Fire Service has since discontinued this assistance, but a neighbouring authority is in a position to assist in the event of an emergency.

#### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The main centres of population at Amersham-on-the-Hill, Amersham Old Town, Chalfont St. Peter, Chalfont St. Giles, and Great Missenden are sewered, and at the time of the preparation of this Report the Prestwood Sewerage Scheme had been completed (January, 1960). The whole of the sewage from these areas drains to the Misbourne Valley, and thence to the West Herts. Drainage Board's works at Maple Cross, on the outskirts of Rickmansworth. By January, 1961, the Sewerage Scheme at Holmer Green will be completed, and this will, in addition, be connected to the trunk sewer in the Misbourne Valley. There are smaller schemes of sewerage also in course of preparation. A small area at Chesham Bois is drained to the Chesham Urban District Council's disposal works.

In the Report for 1958, reference was made to serious infiltration of sub-soil water into the sewers, and in the early spring the Council resolved to make an intensive and concentrated effort to locate the sources of this infiltration and to remedy the cause of the trouble. Staff was delegated for this purpose and private drains and sewers were systematically examined in the localities where a high water table was known to exist. The lengths concerned were submitted to air tests by use of special equipment developed for this purpose to make progressive yard by yard testing possible. This approach was successful and accurate assessment of the condition of individual lengths were recorded. Experience gained in the

first few months led to the re-designing of the equipment to enable the older type of drains with restricted access to be checked. As a result of the information so obtained, action has been commenced under the Public Health Act, 1936, to remedy the faulty drains and sewers. Wherever possible the current practice of using flexibly jointed pipework has been adopted as this type of construction is ideally suited to prevailing conditions and should obviate future trouble.

The method of drainage in other parts of the area is by cesspool or by means of a septic tank and soakaway into the chalk. Mention has been made in previous reports of the complaints of overflowing cesspools and the long delay in dealing with applications for the emptying of them. Whilst there has been a slight improvement in this connection, the position is still far from satisfactory.

#### COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF REFUSE

Although it was not possible to provide a weekly collection of refuse throughout the Council's area, the average period between collections showed some slight improvement. There was no improvement in the labour position, and the Council reviewed the incentive bonus scheme with a view to alleviating the position.

The disposal of refuse was by controlled tipping at Amersham and by the use of disused brickworks at Prestwood and Chalfont St. Giles. During the early part of the year, further complaints were received of fly nuisance from residents in the near vicinity of the Amersham tip. As a result of considerable improvements in the methods employed, and the use of more covering material, some of which had to be imported, it is pleasing to report that no complaints were received during the last six months of the year. Conditions, however, at Prestwood were not at all satisfactory. The owner of the site who is under contract to receive the refuse and to properly dispose of it, was warned that, unless conditions improved, the matter would be reported to the Council's Public Health Committee.

#### ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

No steps were taken to declare any part of the Council's area as a smokeless zone.

Complaints were received in respect of a chimney from the smoke curing section of a bacon factory. The firm agreed to discontinue the use of this chimney pending advice from the manufacturers of the smoke curing equipment. A complaint was also received of the burning of cable for base metal recovery. When the owner of the land was advised that this constituted a change of use of the land and that Town Planning permission would be required, the operation ceased. A complaint was also received of excessive smoke being emitted by the railway engines and as a result of a visit by the Smoke Inspector of British Railways considerable improvement has been effected.

#### HOUSING

The number of properties shown below controlled by the Council at the end of December, 1959, was 2,721, as compared with December, 1958, when it was 2,703. The range of properties is as follows:-

<u>Housing Accommodation</u>				<u>Dec., 1958</u>	<u>Dec., 1959</u>
Pre-war Council houses ...	...	...	662	...	662
Post-war Council houses ...	...	...	1,920	...	1,957
Prefabricated bungalows ...	...	...	90	...	85
War-time buildings converted ..	...	...	2	...	-
Hodgemoor Estate ...	...	...	29	...	17
				<u>2,703</u>	<u>2,721</u>

Camp Sites

During the year the Pipers Wood site was cleared and derequisitioned and further progress was made with the clearance of the Hodgemoor site. Consideration was also given to the redevelopment of one of the sites on which there are prefabricated buildings. The proposal envisaged the removal of the prefabricated buildings and the erection on the site of blocks of multi-storey flats.

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958 (Discretionary Grants)

A further 57 formal Certificates of Approval to applications for improvement grants were issued for the improvement of 65 dwellings, and the total amount of the grants given was £13,424. A summary of the applications approved since the inception of the provisions is given below:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Applications</u>				<u>Total Grants</u>
					£
1950	...	...	1	...	261
1951	...	...	1	...	269
1952	...	...	2	...	394
1953	...	...	9	...	2,465
1954	...	...	29	...	9,802
1955	...	...	72	...	18,225
1956	...	...	50	...	13,440
1957	...	...	45	...	11,473
1958	...	...	55	...	13,961
1959	...	...	57	...	13,424

It will be seen from the above that there was no slackening in the number of applications for improvement grants compared with previous years.

There are numerous dwellings throughout the area which are still lacking the five standard amenities, and every encouragement is given to landlords to take advantage of the improvement grant provisions.

House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959 (Standard Grants)

This Act became operative during the year and up to the end of the year 16 formal Certificates of Approval to applications for Standard Grants were issued for the improvement of 16 dwellings, and the maximum of the grants approved was £1,805.

Housing Act, 1957Slum Clearance Programme

Further limited progress was made in the implementation of the Council's programme for dealing with the list of a total of 284 dwellings which was submitted to the Minister in August, 1955.

A summary of the position at the 31st December, 1959 is given overleaf:-

Demolished or Demolition commenced ... ..	97
Subject to a Demolition Order and now vacant but not demolished ... ..	28
Subject to a Demolition Order, now vacant, but under reconstruction or reconstructed or to be reconstructed	18
Subject to a Demolition Order, but still occupied ...	27
Subject to a Closing Order and now vacant ... ..	7
Subject to a Closing Order and still occupied ... ..	2
Subject to an Undertaking either (a) to use for purposes other than human habitation or (b) to render fit for human occupation ... ..	24
Improved and Rendered fit by Informal Action ... ..	18
Rendered fit by formal action ... ..	15
Proposals pending for Reconstruction, formalities postponed	3
Now used for purposes other than human habitation, voluntarily	14
No Action to date ... ..	31
	<hr/>
	284
	<hr/>

Progress was again limited to a very great extent because of the reduction in the Council's building programme, and the consequent lack of houses for rehousing the occupants of the sub-standard dwellings.

The day-to-day complaints of housing defects were in the main dealt with by Informal Action and the following is a summary of the defects remedied by Formal and Informal Action:-

Cesspool accommodation repaired or provided ...	2
Drains repaired, altered, renewed or improved ...	19
Repairs to roofs (dampness abated) ... ..	3
Repairs to roofs, walls and chimneys ... ..	1
Repairs to sanitary conveniences ... ..	1
Repairs to doors and windows ... ..	1
Water supply re-instated ... ..	1
Disposal of dead poultry by burning ... ..	1
	<hr/>
	29
	<hr/>

#### RENT ACT, 1957.

During the year a Certificate of the remedying of defects was issued following an undertaking given in the previous year and one Certificate of Disrepair which was issued the previous year was cancelled; two applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received during the year and in one case an Undertaking was given by the landlord following the service of a Notice of intention to issue a Certificate of Disrepair, and in the other case a Certificate of Disrepair was issued.

From the above it will be apparent that there was very little activity under the Rent Act, which leads us to the conclusion that the tenants' rights are not widely known or, if they are, the tenants are for some reason or another reluctant to take advantage of them.

### MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The Council approved 39 applications for new licences to erect, station and use moveable dwellings, but a number of the existing licences were not renewed during the year, and the total number of licences current on the 31st December, 1959, was 111.

The number of families who either voluntarily, or by force of circumstances, continue to use the caravan as a permanent home, shows no decrease. In addition to the above licences issued for use of individual caravans, there are in the district two licenced sites and one unlicenced site, all of which were fully occupied throughout the year. Towards the end of the year, the Council was giving consideration to the purchase of a site which had been approved by the Town Planning Authority for 76 caravans. It is the intention of the Council to develop this land as a model site.

### RODENT INFESTATION AND DESTRUCTION

The Council continued the policy of undertaking contracts in respect of agricultural land and business premises. The number of contracts renewed being 62 and the number of new contracts entered into being 19. The contract, in all cases, is for one year with a minimum of 4 treatments.

This is the first full year since the taking over of the contracts which were previously undertaken by the County Agricultural Committee. As a result of dealing with the main sources of infestation on the agricultural land, there have been fewer complaints of rat infestation at domestic premises during the year. Consequently there has not been the necessity to carry out block control on domestic premises and this mainly accounts for the considerable decrease in the number of premises inspected compared with last year.

A summary of the work done is given below:

No. of premises inspected for rats, mice and glis-gliss	...	977
No. of treatments to private premises for rats and mice	...	407
No. of treatments to business premises for rats and mice	..	22
No. of treatments to premises under contract for rats & mice		303
No. of Wasps' Nests destroyed	... ..	273
No. of glis-gliss caught	... ..	10

One polecat was also caught and this was sent to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Research Laboratories at Tolworth.

Mention should be made of the large number of wasps' nests destroyed. This is not a statutory duty under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, but the Council undertook to carry out this work on a pre-payment basis for the reason that there is no other service available to the ratepayers. This work has also affected the number of visits made in connection with rat and mice infestation.

An additional vehicle was purchased during the year, thus improving the mobility of the second rodent operative.

### DISINFECTION

Two premises were disinfected following requests from the occupiers. It is not the normal practice to carry out terminal disinfection in connection with infectious diseases.

SECTION VI,  
INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION  
OF FOOD

Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959 - Regulation 20

The Bucks County Council as the Food and Drugs Authority samples milk produced on farms in this district. Those samples are sent for bacteriological examination primarily for Tubercle Bacilli. The examination also reveals the presence of brucella organisms. When such organisms are isolated the District Medical Officer of Health is informed.

During the year, one such report was received. The milk produced on the farm was already being pasteurised, and no further action was necessary.

Milk Sampling

83 samples of T.T. milk, 129 of pasteurised milk, 34 of T.T./pasteurised milk and 1 of sterilised milk were obtained and submitted for examination and of these 22 samples failed the methylene blue test and 2 samples failed the phosphatase test. Of the above failures, however, 9 samples were invalidated because of the high atmospheric shade temperature and 8 repeat samples passed the prescribed test. In all cases of unsatisfactory reports, active steps were taken immediately to ascertain the cause.

20 washed milk bottles were submitted for laboratory examination and the results were all satisfactory.

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

During the year 31 Licences were issued under the above Regulations, 11 to use the designation "Tuberculin-tested", 13 to use the designation "Pasteurised" and 7 to use the designation "Sterilised".

In addition to the above, 17 Supplementary Licences were issued, 6 to use the designation "Tuberculin-tested", 6 to use the designation "Pasteurised" and 5 to use the designation "Sterilised".

Ice Cream

110 samples of ice-cream were submitted for bacteriological examination and the results were as under:-

	<u>Grade I</u>	<u>Grade 2</u>	<u>Grade 3</u>
SATISFACTORY... ..	101	7	-
UNSATISFACTORY ...	-	-	2

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955

The Inspectors continued their routine inspections of premises which are subject to the above Regulations and Informal Notices were served in cases where contravention of the regulations was found.

441 visits have been made to all types of premises where food is prepared, stored or sold for human consumption.

#### Utensil Swabs

26 sets of utensil swabs were taken at various kitchens of canteens, cafes, hotels, etc. In four cases adverse reports were received. Advice is given in such cases on the washing-up technique.

#### Meat Inspection at Slaughterhouses

The following table gives details of the number of animals slaughtered at the two bacon factories, and one private slaughterhouse, together with details of the post mortem inspection. The total amount of meat condemned at these slaughterhouses was 35 tons 16 cwt. 1 qr. 26 lbs., and the total offal condemned was 9 tons 1 cwt. 3 qrs. 19 lbs.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed & inspected	7	4	2	7	68,490
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	1	2	-	190
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	4,981
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	-	25%	100%	-	7.1%
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	42
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	2,309
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	3.1%

#### Other Foodstuffs Condemned:

Carcass Meat at Butchers' Shops	309	lbs.
Poultry	1,612 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs.
Sugar	155	lbs.
Soup Powder	3	lbs.
Salt	7	lbs.
Flour	45	lbs.
Biscuits	48	lbs.
Shell Fish	60	lbs.
Frozen Foods	51 $\frac{1}{2}$	packets.

## Tinned Goods:

Vegetables .....	5,000	tins
Fruit .....	10,251	"
Meat .....	855	"
Milk .....	799	"
Soup .....	742	"
Fish .....	852	"
Jams .....	90	"

The meat and offal condemned at the two bacon factories is either suitably processed on the premises or removed by a contractor, and in both cases it is used for the manufacture of soap and for animal feeding.

The 1,612½ lbs. of poultry was voluntarily surrendered at a poultry packing establishment and this, together with the tinned foods, was removed to the Council's Refuse Disposal Site where it was immediately covered.

Complaints were received of mouldy bread, mouldy pork pies, a piece of wood in a loaf of bread, a very sharp piece of metal in an almond tartlet and a hair in a shortbread biscuit. Warning was given to the manufactureros of the bread, the almond tartlet and the shortbread biscuit. In the case of the pork pies, it was found on investigation that they had been held too long in stock by the retailer, who was also given a warning.

Food and Drugs Act, Section 16.

A further 4 premises were registered for the storage and/or sale of ice cream, making a total in the register of 172 premises registered, 154 for the manufacture, sale or storage of ice-cream, 14 for the preparation and manufacture of sausages and preserved foods, and 4 for fish frying.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES' ACT, 1958

The four Licences to use premises as slaughterhouses expired on the 31st July. In the case of two of these premises the Regulations in force at the time were not in all respects being complied with. The applications for renewal of these two licences were refused. The two remaining licences were renewed for a further period of one year.

Some of the preliminary work was done in connection with the preparation of the Slaughterhouses Report in accordance with the requirements of the Slaughterhouses Reports (Appointed Day) Order, 1959.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933/1954.

No. of Slaughterman's Licences renewed:	20
No. of New Licences issued:	1.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Number of Licences issued: .. .. 2.

GAME ACT, 1831

Number of Game Licences issued: .. 9.

PETROLEUM (REGULATIONS) ACTS, 1928 and 1936.

Number of Licences renewed: .. ..116.

Number of new Licences issued: .. 4.

A total of 108 inspections were made under the Regulations.

RAG, FLOCK AND OTHER MILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

Number of Premises registered .. 3

BUCKS. COUNTY COUNCIL ACT, 1957

Under Section 52 of the above Act, all persons carrying on the business of a Hairdresser or Barber's Shop are required to register with the Local Authority and the number of persons and premises registered at 31st December was 28.

EPILOGUE

One of the many varied requests for assistance received during the year concerned the damage being caused to the pointing of the brickwork of a number of houses by an unidentified insect. Samples were sent for identification and were described as 'Digger Bees'. They attack the pointing of brickwork, mainly on the sunny side of the buildings, and in time cause considerable damage. A suitable insecticide was applied and proved effective!

"Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them" .....The Rodent Officer received an urgent call in the middle of an afternoon during the autumn to appear in "Tonight" that same evening to show specimens of Glis-glis. He promptly responded and was whirled away to the B.B.C., and after a hasty rehearsal he found himself in front of the glaring television cameras. Local Government does sometimes have something to show!

F. Seymour, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health.

F.G. Caudery, M.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I.,  
Chief Public Health Inspector.

APPENDIXFACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959

## 1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspection (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .....	7	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .....	134	85	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) .....	-	-	-	-
Total .....	141	85	-	-

## 2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars  (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of Cases in which prosecutions were instituted  (6)
	Found  (2)	Remedied  (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector  (4)	By H.M. Inspector  (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2) .....	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) .....	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) .....	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) .....	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient .....	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective .....	-	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes .....	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ....	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL .....	-	1	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACTOutwork(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work  (1)	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c) (2)	No. of Cases of default in send- ing lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prose- cutions (7)
Wearing Apparel:- Making, etc., Cleaning and Washing ...	148	-	-	-	-	-
Curtains and furniture hangings ...	17	-	-	-	-	-
Brush making	2	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	167	-	-	-	-	-



